

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Job title:	Senior Research Associate, Knowledge Leadership (Fortification)
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Classification:	Grade 4	Direct reports:	0
Work location	Abuja, Nigeria	Travel required	Up to 30%

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) is a Swiss-based foundation launched at the United Nations in 2002 to tackle the human suffering caused by malnutrition. Due to COVID19, conflict in Ukraine and climate change, malnutrition and hunger have worsened significantly since 2019, reversing a decade of progress. There is growing recognition that our food systems need to change if we are to reverse these trends.

GAIN's Strategy aims to transform food systems to make healthier diets from sustainable food systems accessible to all people and especially those whose are most vulnerable to shocks. By 2027, we aim to improve the access of 1.5 billion people to nutritionally enhanced staple foods, improve the access of 25 million people to healthier diets, and support positive food system change in 10 countries. This is bold and complex, and the only way to achieve this is to work together with partners including governments, businesses, and civil society at the country and global level. These goals, and the ways of achieving them, build on our twenty-year legacy of transforming people's lives with improved nutrition through concerted action and effective policy change.

DESCRIPTION
<p>Overall purpose</p> <p>GAIN is seeking a Senior Research Associate, Knowledge Leadership(Fortification) to be based in Abuja, Nigeria to manage knowledge leadership functions across countries with focus on defined programmatic topics. They will support the design and implementation of activities of Knowledge Leadership(KL) projects, technical and operational backstopping for focus KL projects and support monitoring frameworks.</p> <p>The overall purpose of this position is to support the Country Offices, Monitoring team and KL team in operational and administrative backstopping of project portfolio of Knowledge Leadership led initiatives.</p>
<p>Tasks and Responsibilities:</p> <p>Research leadership and program support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the development of learning agendas and the integration of research, evaluation and learning into GAIN country programs and projects. • Liaise with the project managers and global KL counterpart for periodic and donor reporting on the results framework of projects. • Develop monitoring protocols in collaboration with monitoring focal persons (who oversee the quality of monitoring data shared by partners, mentor partners on accurate and timely reporting on project deliverables) to ensure alignment with program frameworks, evaluation and learning agenda. • Provide technical oversight to the implementation of KL activities in collaboration with project managers across project portfolios.

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Project management, donor report support, and representation/influencing

- Manage the implementation of activities with high focus on research as well as strengthening program monitoring of fortification program (Large Scale Food Fortification, biofortification, but may include others), to ensure generation, analysis and sharing data and information on programs in strategically selected geographies.
- Identify, liaise and collaborate with partners for research and program related assessments (including household, market assessment, production and laboratory assessment).
- Monitor quality of and analyze outputs generated by contracted agencies, consultants and project partners to develop and execute dissemination of the project outputs with relevant global and local stakeholders working on programmatic focus topics.
- Maintain communication with project partners, including government and private sector as well as contracted agencies to ensure timely delivery of project deliverables and dissemination of project outputs.
- Manage project Management Information System (PRISM), update activities, expenditures, results and feed updates and present project status updates to the QUAD, senior leadership and donors
- Provide technical support as needed during concept note and proposal writing.

Key organisational relationships

- Reports to the Senior Technical Specialist, Knowledge Leadership.
- Collaborates with the grant team, KL team, Monitoring team and country offices.
- Collaborates with project managers of the key project portfolios. Liaise with consultants and partner agencies within Knowledge Leadership.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

Competencies

- Good communication skills in multi-cultural, multi-lingual environments (written and verbal) and excellent report-writing skills.
- Strategic thinking in areas of nutrition and food systems relevant to GAIN's programmes.
- Skills in qualitative and quantitative research methods essential (survey design, implementation, data analysis, survey management, budgeting, etc.). Implementation research expertise a plus.
- Knowledge management and strategic research translation.
- Excellent project coordination, management, negotiation, and advocacy skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work in a multi-cultural environment.
- Flexible, with a willingness and ability to travel...

Experience

- Demonstrated experience in research, program monitoring and/or evaluation including the development and operationalization of project M&E frameworks and plans in international development agencies.
- Experience in program management in social sector, nutrition /health programs.
- Experience with quantitative and qualitative research and analysis.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated excellence in written/verbal communications, research, writing, and analytical ability.
Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum masters level training or equivalent in social sciences/economics/ development economics or related experience.
Other requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluency in English essential (written and spoken)

WHAT GAIN OFFERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible working hours • Friendly working environment • Professional development opportunities